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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Fiftieth session
Agenda item 12

QUESTION OF THE VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS IN ANY PART OF THE WORLD, WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO COLONIAL AND OTHER DEPENDENT COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES

Burundi*, Gabon, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti*, Mauritania, Mauritius, Rwanda*, Swaziland* and Zaire*: draft resolution

The situation of human rights in Burundi

The Commission on Human Rights,

Guided by the principles set out in the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenants on Human Rights,

Reaffirming its complete determination with regard to respect for the principles of the rule of law, which involves democracy, national unity, pluralism and respect for the fundamental rights and freedoms of the individual,

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* In accordance with rule 69, paragraph 3, of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council.

Deeply concerned at the increase in the acts of inter-ethnic violence since the attempted coup d'état on 21 October 1993, involving loss of human life and violations of human rights in Burundi,

Concerned about the mass exodus of persons from Burundi fleeing their country to take refuge in neighbouring countries, which increases the number of displaced persons in those host countries,

Particularly convinced that consolidation of democratic gains helps to create a favourable environment for lasting settlement of the ethnic tension that has brought bloodshed to the country over the past 30 years, on the one hand, and enables everyone of Burundi to take part in the economic and social development of his country, on the other hand,

1. Strongly condemns the brutal and violent break in the democratic process initiated in Burundi and demands an immediate end to acts of violence and military coercion;

2. Invites the international community to lend its political, diplomatic, material and financial support to end the massacres, to help the Government of Burundi to find a lasting solution to the ethnic tension and to create conditions to favour the return of the refugees;

3. Is grateful to the States which have given refuge in their diplomatic premises to members of the Government of Burundi and thanks them for the technical assistance they have provided to ensure those persons' safety;

4. Notes with satisfaction that the Secretary-General has responded immediately to this situation by sending a special envoy with a good offices mission so as to facilitate the restoration of the constitutional regime;

5. Welcomes the appointment by the Secretary-General of a Special Representative for Burundi and the dispatch to Burundi, in support of the special representative's action, of a small United Nations fact-finding and advisory group to facilitate the efforts of the Government of Burundi and the Organization of African Unity;

6. Commends the efforts made by the Organization of African Unity and the various initiatives taken by associations for the protection of human rights to help the Government of Burundi re-establish democratic institutions, restore confidence and stabilize the situation;

7. Encourages the Government of Burundi in its action to secure participation by all components of the population in the conduct of the political and administrative affairs of the country;

8. Also invites the authorities of Burundi to carry out a prompt inquiry into the coup d'état of 21 October 1993, as well as the inter-ethnic massacres, and to bring the persons responsible for these acts of violence before the courts;

9. Requests the Chairman of the Commission on Human Rights to appoint an independent expert of the Commission with a mandate to prepare a report on the situation of human rights in Burundi on the basis of any information he deems relevant, in particular information from the Organization of African Unity, so as to submit a report to the Commission at its fifty-first session and a report to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session;

10. Invites the authorities of Burundi to cooperate fully with the independent expert;

11. Requests the Secretary-General to provide all assistance needed by the independent expert for the discharge of his mandate;

12. Also requests the Secretary-General to provide the Government of Burundi with technical assistance to strengthen the structures for the promotion and protection of human rights, more particularly through the advisory services programme of the Centre for Human Rights, in close cooperation with the Secretary-General's special representative for Burundi;

13. Decides to consider the situation of human rights in Burundi at its fifty-first session, under the agenda item entitled "Question of the violation of human rights and fundamental freedoms in any part of the world, with particular reference to colonial and other dependent countries and territories".

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